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AN UNUSUAL INSECT GALL ON SCARLET OAK (QUERCUS COCCINEA MUENCH.)

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Most of us are familiar with such common insect galls on the oak as the beautiful Wool Sower,* often occurring on twigs of white oak—a spherical, woolly mass, which when young, is of an exquisite, creamy-white tint, interspersed with blotches of bright, pinkish-red; the Large Oak Apple—usually about the size of a golf ball, smooth and firm on the outside, but a spongy mass within, and a single thick-walled larval cell in the center; the Oak Bullet Galls, in clusters of two or three or more on the terminal twigs of the members of the white oak group; as well as many other commonly recurring forms which we know by sight if not by name.

Last summer, at Hamden, Conn., during the first week in August, I noticed on the callus surrounding an old fire scar on a trunk of a Scarlet Oak peculiar growths in such an unusual location on the tree and of such peculiar shape and bright green color that they were not at first recognized even as galls. In color the growths were a bright green, very close to rivage green†; in form, almost symmetrically cone-shaped, except that the pointed apex canted slightly to one side; and in size about 7 mm. high by 5 mm. in diameter at the base. At first sight they appeared to be some abnormal development of the tree itself—possibly of the nature of adventitious buds.

Dr. E. P. Felt, to whom the specimens were submitted, stated that they were galls caused by *Andricus ventricosus* Bass., though slightly abnormal on account of infestation by parasites. Their

* Felt, Ephraim Porter. Insects affecting park and woodland trees. Vol. 2, pp. 615 ff., Memoir 8, N. Y. State Museum, 1906. See also, by the same author, Key to American Insect Galls. Bull. 200, N. Y. State Museum, 1918.

† Ridgway, Robert. Color standards and color nomenclature. Washington, D. C., 1912. See pl. XVIII.

hollow interior was filled with small maggots, whereas, generally speaking, unparasitized galls contain a large maggot nearly filling the cavity. Dr. Felt considers the gall not a well-known one, and from ordinary standards somewhat rare. The specimens observed August 6 are shown at the upper part of the figure. On September 7, when the photograph was taken, these were withering, and the two new ones shown below had developed. Close examination of the bark of the callus with a lens revealed punctures and often slight swellings at other points.

Galls caused primarily by *Andricus ventricosus* Bass. on callus surrounding old fire scar on trunk of scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea* Muench.).